



NGC News

NGC Registry Awards 2012

Every year, NGC awards the top Competitive Sets and Custom Sets in the NGC Registry. To qualify, your sets must be registered by 5 p.m. EST on Dec. 3, 2012. Winners will be announced Jan. 11, 2013.

[Read this article...](#)

How to Submit Coins to NGC

Read these helpful tips and step-by-step instructions for submitting your coins to NGC.

[Read this article...](#)

NGC Auction Central - Free Access to Prices Realized

Now enjoy free access to auction prices realized without a paid Collectors Society Membership.

[Read this article...](#)

Convert NGC Registry Custom Sets to Public View

Follow these easy instructions to make your private Custom Sets public.

[Read this article...](#)

NGC Grading On-site at ANA National Money Show

Visit the NGC booth Oct. 18–19 for grading and encapsulation services.

[Read this article...](#)

Have Your Coins Graded On-site at Whitman Baltimore

NGC will offer on-site grading of US coins at the Whitman Baltimore Expo. All coins submitted for on-site grading will be evaluated for Plus Designation at time of grading.

[Read this article...](#)

NGC Ancients: Carthaginians Borrowed Sicilian Coin Designs

Collectors are especially fond of these Carthaginian war coins, which are generically termed "Siculo-Punic."

[Read this article...](#)

Counterfeit Detection: 1880 Shield Nickel

Even with only a quick glance, a number of problems with this counterfeit Shield Nickel are obvious.

[Read this article...](#)

USA Coin Album: Scrapbook Gold

This month, David summarizes some of the best numismatic articles he has saved over the years.

[Read this article...](#)



- Submit directly to NGC
- Online submission forms and order tracking
- Memberships from \$39/yr

[Join Today >](#)

NumisMedia Market Report: Dollar Hoards Spawn Interest and Premiums

Silver dollars have long been a mainstay in the coin business and are likely the most collected US coin. Over the last 50 years, many hoards have hit the market, fueling interest and attracting masses of new collectors.

[Read this article...](#)

From the NGC Archives: 1864 Two-Cent Piece with Small Motto

Americans were so desperate for hard money during the Civil War that even the lowly copper-nickel cents were hoarded.

[Read this article...](#)

2012 First Spouse Series One-Half Ounce Gold Proof Coin – Alice Paul and the Suffrage Movement

The US Mint releases the first 2012 First Spouse Gold Coin series.

[Read this article...](#)

Heritage Auctions: 1833 \$5 Large Date Coin, PR 61 NGC

Struck during the opening year of the second mint building, this 1833 proof half eagle has been listed as the 44th greatest US coin.

[Read this article...](#)

Stack's Bowers Galleries to Present the Official Auction of the 2013 New Orleans ANA National Money Show

Live auctions for the 2013 ANA National Money Show will be conducted May 9–11.

[Read this article...](#)

Visit our affiliated websites:



Official Grading Service of



800-NGC-COIN | www.NGCcoin.com | © 2014

Numismatic Guaranty Corporation | P.O. Box 4738 | Sarasota, FL 34230

NGC Registry Awards 2012

Posted on 9/24/2012

Every year, NGC awards the top Competitive Sets and Custom Sets in the NGC Registry. To qualify, your sets must be registered by 5 p.m. EST on Dec. 3, 2012. Winners will be announced Jan. 11, 2013.

As in past years, the winners will include world-class collections and incredible exhibitions. Make sure yours are among them, and see if your collection has what it takes! This year, awards are being presented in the following categories:

Competitive Set Awards

Awards will be presented in the following four categories:

- The FIVE Best CLASSIC Sets: 1792-1964
- The FIVE Best MODERN Sets: 1950 to date (including Jefferson Nickels and Roosevelt Dimes)
- The FIVE Best PRESENTED Sets: Sets with the best descriptive text and coin images
- The FIVE Best WORLD Sets

Custom Set Awards

Awards will be presented in the following four categories:

- The Best Overall Custom Set
- The Best World Custom Set
- The Most Creative Custom Set
- The Most Informative Custom Set

Take the honors in one of these categories, and you'll receive a personalized plaque, an icon of recognition next to your set's registry listing and up to five Deluxe PHOTO PROOFS® or five NGC Photo Vision™ presentations of NGC coins from your winning set.

To participate, just enter your set online in the [NGC Registry](#). Sets must be at least 50% complete to be eligible for the award categories above.

Collectors Journal Awards

Additionally, we will award three outstanding Collectors Journal authors. We will consider an author's complete collection of journal entries in determining the winners. Journals entries will be judged on writing talent, creativity, enthusiasm, numismatic knowledge and, most importantly, the sharing of a personal sense of the collecting journey. The winning authors will receive a personalized plaque and an icon of recognition on their homepages.

Also, collectors with the #1 set in each category will receive an icon of recognition by his / her set in the Registry and a certificate of achievement.

The deadline for set registration and journal entries is 5 p.m. ET on December 3, 2012.

Winners will be announced on January 11, 2013.

[Click to view previous year's award winners.](#)

[Articles List](#)

NGC is the Official Grading Service of



[View All >](#)

NGC is an Approved Grading Company of



How to Submit Coins to NGC

Posted on 10/16/2012

Read these helpful tips and step-by-step instructions for submitting your coins to NGC.

For tips on how to submit your coins, refer to our [How to Submit](#) page.

Step-by-step submission form instructions are also located on NGC Collectors Society under the [Grading & Submissions](#) menu.

Please follow these tips and instructions to help ensure that your coins are graded and returned without unexpected fees or delay.

Questions? Contact NGC Customer Service at service@NGCcoin.com or 1-800-NGC-COIN (1-800-642-2646).



[Articles List](#)

NGC is the Official Grading Service of

AMERICAN
NUMISMATIC
ASSOCIATION

P·N·G

NGC is an Approved Grading Company of

catawiki

SIXBID.COM
EXPERTS IN NUMISMATIC AUCTIONS

VCoins

[View All](#) >



Careers Legal Privacy Policy Security Center Sitemap Terms Affiliates Contact

© 2018 Numismatic Guaranty Corporation

 United States 

NGC Auction Central - Free Access to Prices Realized

Posted on 9/20/2012

Now enjoy free access to auction prices realized without a paid Collectors Society Membership.

NGC Auction Central is now a completely free resource. Users can enjoy access to individual prices realized without a paid Collectors Society membership.

Released in October 2011,
[NGC Auction Central](#) maintains:

- Upcoming auction data sortable by attributes such as grade, price, date and auction house.
- Volume charts that are adjustable by time for all series and for individual coins
- Basic performance history, such as average grade and price for each coin.
- Thumbnail images for coins when they are available.



Images	Date	Grade	Auction House	Price / Lot
	10/16/2011	MS 66	Heritage Auctions	2011 October 17-18 US Coin Signature Auction, #1140, Pittsburg, Missouri, IL, 11/01/2011
	10/16/2011	MS 66	Heritage Auctions	2011 October 17-18 US Coin Signature Auction, #1140, Pittsburg, Missouri, IL, 11/01/2011
	10/16/2011	MS 66	Heritage Auctions	2011 October 17-18 US Coin Signature Auction, #1140, Pittsburg, Missouri, IL, 11/01/2011
	10/16/2011	MS 66	Heritage Auctions	2011 October 17-18 US Coin Signature Auction, #1140, Pittsburg, Missouri, IL, 11/01/2011
	10/16/2011	MS 66	Heritage Auctions	2011 October 17-18 US Coin Signature Auction, #1140, Pittsburg, Missouri, IL, 11/01/2011

Access Includes

Upcoming Auctions

- See what venues are selling the particular coin you might want to upgrade or just need to complete a set.

Series Overviews

- Gain 20 years of volume data from top auction houses.
- View top-5 coins by volume, gauge liquidity over time and study the series'

top–5 prices realized.

- Consider volume vs. time in helpful charts and gauge the strength of the coin market.

Top–10 Performers

- Compare your series against others by viewing lists of the top–10 coins per series.

Individual Prices Realized

- Price coins more accurately with auction prices realized.
- View auction volume over time for a specific coin and filter by details such as price, auction house and grade.

Searches for auction data may be conducted as part of the [NGC Coin Explorer](#) or through this separate, stand-alone feature. New coins and updated prices realized will be posted as soon as an auction goes live or ends.

In addition to [NGC Auction Central](#) our online suite of research tools include [NGC Coin Explorer](#), the [NGC US Coin Price Guide](#) and [NGC World Coin Price Guide](#) and the [Chinese Modern Coin Price Guide](#) supplying everything the numismatic community needs in one place, solidifying the NGC website as the number one resource for research tools.

Articles List

NGC is the Official Grading Service of

AMERICAN
NUMISMATIC
ASSOCIATION



NGC is an Approved Grading Company of

MA-SHOPS
Collector Online Mall



SIXBID.COM
EXPERTS IN NUMISMATIC AUCTIONS

View All >





Convert NGC Registry Custom Sets to Public View

Posted on 9/26/2012

Follow these easy instructions to make your private Custom Sets public.

The popular [NGC Registry](#) offers two ways for collectors to participate: Competitive Sets, where you join a fun and friendly competition by building a set based on parameters defined by NGC, and Custom Sets, which allow you to define your own sets. Custom Sets are a great way to share your unique collecting interests. [Learn more about Custom Sets >](#)

If you've already created a Custom Set that you'd like to share with others, make sure you have it set to Public View. Custom Sets used to be kept private by default, but we've recently changed our default settings. Here's a step-by-step guide to convert your Custom Sets to public view:

- Login to www.collectors-society.com. You will be brought to your Control Panel.
- Scroll down and click on the "Custom Sets" tab. You'll see a list of all of your Custom Sets.
- To edit a set and make it public, click on the pen and paper symbol to the left of the set.



[click image to enlarge](#)

- You'll then be brought to the Edit Set page, where you can uncheck the

"Make Private?" box. Once the box is unchecked, hit save. Your set can now be viewed by other collectors!

SET LISTINGGALLERYSLIDE SHOWEDIT SETDELETE SET

CATEGORY:World Coins

SET NAME:Coins with Ships

SET DESCRIPTION:My collection of coins with ships on them.

COLLECTING GOALS:

MAKE PRIVATE?☐

Coins in this set

ADD FROM INVENTORYADD NEW

click image to enlarge

Articles List

NGC is the Official Grading Service of



NGC is an Approved Grading Company of



View All >



Careers Legal Privacy Policy Security Center Sitemap Terms Affiliates Contact

© 2018 Numismatic Guaranty Corporation

United States

NGC Grading On-site at ANA National Money Show

Posted on 9/18/2012

Visit the NGC booth Oct. 18–19 for grading and encapsulation services.

NGC will offer on-site grading and encapsulation of US coins* at the [ANA's National Money Show](#), in Dallas, TX on **Thursday, October 18 to Friday, October 19, 2012 at 12:00 pm**. NGC will be at booth 108. Please check with NGC Customer Service for submission cut-off times.

Please read below for complete details on the services offered during the show.

NGC will be offering [NGC Details Grading](#) for coins that exhibit detrimental surface conditions. This service is provided automatically and at no additional charge for all on-site grading submissions. Submitters can request to opt out of this service if they prefer to have such coins returned ungraded.

All coins certified or reholdered by NGC at shows receive the [Scratch-Resistant EdgeView® Holder](#).

On-Site Services include :

Silver Dollar Tier	\$30 per coin
Morgan and Peace Dollars valued at \$500 and under (5-coin minimum).	
<i>Coins must be in flips.</i>	

Gold Special	\$50 per coin
Gold coins valued at \$3,000 and under (5-coin minimum).	

Value WalkThrough	\$65 per coin
Coins valued at \$1,500 and under.	

WalkThrough	\$100 per coin
--------------------	-----------------------

Coins valued from \$1,501 to \$100,000.

Expedite WalkThrough **\$150 per coin**

Guaranteed four-hour turnaround, coins valued at \$100,000 and under.

Coins are returned within four hours or regular show pricing applies.

High-Value WalkThrough **\$200 per coin**

Four-hour turnaround, coins valued from \$100,001 to \$500,000.

Unlimited Value WalkThrough **\$500 per coin**

Four-hour turnaround, coins valued above \$500,000.

Show ReHolder **\$15 per coin**

A coin in a scratched, chipped or older-generation NGC holder is placed in a new Scratch-Resistant EdgeView Holder.

NCS CrossOver **\$10 per coin**

A coin in an NCS holder is [NGC Details Graded](#).

Questions should be directed to NGC customer service at service@NGCcoin.com or 1-800-NGC-COIN (642-2646).

Most coins submitted for on-site grading are returned within 24 to 48 hours, except for expedited services, which are completed within four hours.

NGC Show Representatives will also be accepting submissions for all service levels to be sent to our office in Sarasota, FL. These include World services, Ancient Coin Services, Early Bird, Economy, Bulk, Special Designations, PHOTO PROOF® and more!

Special Note:

- Due to the special handling required, NGC does not accept submissions of the following coins at this show for on-site grading or regular service submissions to be returned to the NGC offices: Coins over 3.5" (90 mm) in diameter and .39" (10 mm) in depth, Making American History Coin & Currency Sets, 25th Anniversary Eagles, 20th Anniversary Eagles, Early Releases, American Liberty Series, 10th Anniversary Platinum Sets. These submissions must be sent directly to Sarasota, FL, by the submitter.
- The \$5 CrossOver special does not apply for on-site grading.

Visit our table for answers to any questions about the services offered by NGC. Please remember that NGC does not provide opinions or free evaluations of coins at trade shows.

*Does not include 5-ounce coins.

Articles List

NGC is the Official Grading Service of



View All >



Careers Legal Privacy Policy Security Center Sitemap Terms Affiliates Contact

© 2018 Numismatic Guaranty Corporation

United States

Have Your Coins Graded On-site at Whitman Baltimore

Posted on 11/2/2012

NGC will offer on-site grading of US coins at the Whitman Baltimore Expo. All coins submitted for on-site grading will be evaluated for Plus Designation at time of grading.

NGC will offer on-site grading and encapsulation of US coins* at the [Whitman Baltimore Expo](#), in Baltimore, MD on **Thursday, November 15 to Friday, November 16, 2012 at 12:00 pm**. NGC will be at booth 1953. Please check with NGC Customer Service for submission cut-off times.

Please read below for complete details on the services offered during the show.

NGC will be offering [NGC Details Grading](#) for coins that exhibit detrimental surface conditions. This service is provided automatically and at no additional charge for all on-site grading submissions. Submitters can request to opt out of this service if they prefer to have such coins returned ungraded.

All coins certified or reholdered by NGC at shows receive the [Scratch-Resistant EdgeView® Holder](#).

On-Site Services include :

Silver Dollar Tier	\$30 per coin
--------------------	---------------

Morgan and Peace Dollars valued at \$500 and under (5-coin minimum).

Coins must be in flips.

Gold Special	\$50 per coin
--------------	---------------

Gold coins valued at \$3,000 and under (5-coin minimum).

Value WalkThrough	\$65 per coin
-------------------	---------------

Coins valued at \$1,500 and under.

WalkThrough	\$100 per coin
Coins valued from \$1,501 to \$100,000.	
Expedite WalkThrough	\$150 per coin
Guaranteed four-hour turnaround, coins valued at \$100,000 and under. <i>Coins are returned within four hours or regular show pricing applies.</i>	
High-Value WalkThrough	\$200 per coin
Four-hour turnaround, coins valued from \$100,001 to \$500,000.	
Unlimited Value WalkThrough	\$500 per coin
Four-hour turnaround, coins valued above \$500,000.	
Show ReHolder	\$15 per coin
A coin in a scratched, chipped or older-generation NGC holder is placed in a new Scratch-Resistant EdgeView Holder.	
NCS CrossOver	\$10 per coin
A coin in an NCS holder is NGC Details Graded .	

Questions should be directed to NGC customer service at service@NGCcoin.com or 1-800-NGC-COIN (642-2646).

Most coins submitted for on-site grading are returned within 24 to 48 hours, except for expedited services, which are completed within four hours.

NGC Show Representatives will also be accepting submissions for all service levels to be sent to our office in Sarasota, FL. These include World services, Ancient Coin Services, Bulk, PHOTO PROOF® and more!

Special Note:

- Due to the special handling required, NGC does not accept submissions of the following coins at this show for on-site grading or regular service submissions to be returned to the NGC offices: Coins over 3.5" (90 mm) in diameter and .39" (10 mm) in depth, Making American History Coin & Currency Sets, 25th Anniversary Eagles, 20th Anniversary Eagles, Early Releases, American Liberty Series, 10th Anniversary Platinum Sets. These submissions must be sent directly to Sarasota, FL, by the submitter.
- The \$5 CrossOver special does not apply for on-site grading.

Visit our table for answers to any questions about the services offered by NGC.

Please remember that NGC does not provide opinions or free evaluations of coins at trade shows.

*Does not include 5-ounce coins.

[Articles List](#)

NGC is the Official Grading Service of



[View All](#) >



[Careers](#) [Legal](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Security Center](#) [Sitemap](#) [Terms](#) [Affiliates](#) [Contact](#)

© 2018 Numismatic Guaranty Corporation

United States

NGC Ancients: Carthaginians Borrowed Sicilian Coin Designs

Posted on 10/16/2012

Collectors are especially fond of these Carthaginian war coins, which are generically termed “Siculo-Punic.”

The western Mediterranean was populated by many different peoples in ancient times: Phoenicians, Greeks, Etruscans, and Romans just to name a few. Over the course of time these peoples’ interests clashed, resulting in wars, usually over land rights and commercial conflicts.

The Romans and the Carthaginians were two of the most powerful forces in the region, and in the 3rd and 2nd Centuries B.C., they engaged in three successive conflicts known as the Punic Wars. But long before those, the Carthaginians were at odds with the Greeks, who had colonized some of the same regions desired by the Carthaginians, principally the island of Sicily.

The Carthaginians originated in Phoenicia and were of Punic heritage. Centuries before either the Greeks or the Romans migrated west, the Punic people founded a network of coastal cities that in early times were little more than trade hubs. These Phoenicians were extraordinary sailors, and had a keen interest in commerce. These skills combined to allow the settlers in Carthage to build an enviable, commercial empire.

Three centuries of warfare between the Greeks and the Carthaginians who competed for supremacy in Sicily had many profound effects, not the least of which was a most attractive and varied series of coins.

Collectors are especially fond of these Carthaginian war coins, which are generically termed “Siculo-Punic.” They feature a combination of Sicilian Greek and Punic elements, and bear Punic inscriptions which are still a bit mysterious. The best of these coins were struck from dies cut by the best (presumably) Greek artists that the Carthaginians could afford to hire.



The most influential prototypes for early Siculo-Punic coins were silver tetradrachms of Syracuse. These issues were struck by Carthaginians in the late 5th and throughout the 4th centuries B.C. at Panormus, Thermai, and a third, unidentified Sicilian mint.

The designs of these Carthaginian copies are faithful, but their style is sometimes stiff and approximating, which suggests the engraver was Punic rather than Greek. A few dies from the series at Panormus, however, were of a fluid, “Greek,” style.

Except for the final series, the Arethusa head adopted from the coinage of Syracuse was favored by the Carthaginians. Indeed, they combined this type with designs depicting two important Carthaginian symbols: that of the horse and the palm tree.

The reverses of the early issues either show a horse standing or in action, with a palm tree in the background. The style on most of these coins is fantastic. The horse is usually shown in profile to the right or the left, but sometimes the head is shown slightly facing the viewer. The horse is calmly standing or is depicted prancing, trotting, leaping, or performing a trick. There can be no doubt that the artists had a deep understanding of horses, for the nuances of form and movement are clearly rendered. Understandably, these are among the most expensive coins in the Siculo-Punic series.



Later, the horse-and-palm reverse was transformed to show only the head and neck of the horse with a comparatively small palm tree in the field behind. Here the die cutters’ love of the horse is still evident, for the composition is precise and the details often are amazing.

On these coins – the last of the Siculo-Punic tetradrachms – the new obverse type is the head of young Heracles wearing the scalp of the Nemean lion, which must have been borrowed from the silver tetradrachms of the Macedonian King Alexander III “the Great” (r. 336-323 B.C.).



It is somewhat odd that the Heracles obverse was adopted, since the coins of the Macedonian Kingdom became the main currency in Greece, Egypt, the Holy Land, and Asia Minor. They did not flow west of Greece in great quantities. Indeed, the Corinthian stater was the main Greek coin that was exported westward.



Clearly, the broad trade networks of Carthaginian merchants must have been responsible. They readily traded with Greeks, Egyptians, and peoples of their Phoenician homeland; and in all of these places, Alexander’s coinage had been the “standard” for more than a generation before this final Siculo-Punic series began in about 300 B.C. Furthermore, when the Punic people saw the head of Heracles, they no doubt saw it as a mirror image of their own mythological hero, Melqart.

[Articles List](#)

NGC is the Official Grading Service of



NGC is an Approved Grading Company of



[View All](#) >



Counterfeit Detection: 1880 Shield Nickel

Posted on 10/16/2012

Even with only a quick glance, a number of problems with this counterfeit Shield Nickel are obvious.

The first nickel five cent pieces were struck in 1866 and there have been relatively few key dates issued in the nearly 150 years since. Several varieties are often collected as part of the regular series, but other than these and a handful of low mintage issues, most nickels can be acquired in circulated grades for modest prices. It is not surprising, then, that counterfeit nickels are seen only rarely.

That will likely change, however, as more counterfeits of Chinese origin enter the United States. In a recent submission, NGC graders identified a fake circulation issue 1880 Shield Nickel that was almost certainly produced in China in recent years. According to the [NGC US Coin Price Guide](#), the retail value for an authentic specimen values ranges from \$540 in Good to \$90,350 in MS 66. The 1880 is undoubtedly the key date in the series with a scant mintage of just 16,000 business strikes.

A number of problems with this counterfeit become obvious even at a quick glance. The design elements are weakly defined with a very granular texture. The leaves to the left of the shield blend into the fields. The date is misshapen, and the circular design element above is broken at the bottom. Several parallel raised lines, a common problem with many counterfeits, protrude from the date and the right obverse denticles.



Counterfeit 1880 Shield Nickel
Click images to enlarge.

Weak design definition is also seen on the reverse. Another fatal flaw is the botched rim around much of the reverse. Many of the recently made Chinese counterfeits seem to have either a raised “lip” or tooling marks on the rim. Although this is not a surefire way to tell the coin is counterfeit, for many series it is a red flag.

There is an incredible range of Chinese counterfeits in the marketplace; virtually every type of coin is targeted and the quality of the fakes varies dramatically. This nickel happens to be a poorly made counterfeit, but in a series where forgeries have been seldom seen it can be deceptive. Nonetheless, it shares many of the same issues seen on other Chinese-made imitations, and serves as a useful reference piece.

[Articles List](#)

NGC is the Official Grading Service of

AMERICAN
NUMISMATIC
ASSOCIATION



NGC is an Approved Grading Company of

catawiki

MA-SHOPS
Collector Online Mall

VCoins

View All >





USA Coin Album: Scrapbook Gold

Posted on 10/16/2012

This month, David summarizes some of the best numismatic articles he has saved over the years.

Any veteran numismatist knows that much of the best information is not to be found in books, but rather in articles and filler stories of a more ephemeral nature. Some of my favorite numismatic writers have never, or rarely, written books, yet their wisdom and research has appeared in the monthly and weekly numismatic periodicals that are seldom saved by the typical collector. For the past 30+ years I've maintained a series of scrapbooks that include all of the articles and odd bits of numismatic information I wanted to have available to me when needed. Many of these clippings have already served as the basis for past columns, but this time out I'm making them the featured story by summarizing some of the best ones. If this proves popular with readers, I'll do it again in future columns.



First up is a gem from the September 23, 1987 issue of Coin World, written by Robert M. Lacewell, who interviewed retiring senior die setter Edgar Fulwider of the San Francisco Assay Office. (The name SFAO was used for the mint from 1958-88. It had been applied after coining operations were suspended in 1955, a move that proved premature when the striking of coins resumed in 1965 to combat the nationwide shortage.) Ed was then and remains today a good friend of mine, and it was he who took me and my father into the SFAO for a private, escorted tour at the time of his retirement. He also secured for me invitations to several First Strike ceremonies, including that for the silver American Eagle coins in 1986 at the SFAO. His career there spanned the years 1965-87, some of the most interesting years of its operation.

In 1987 Ed revealed to Lacewell that during the previous ten years proof dies had been chromium plated for endurance, which helps to explain why the proofs of those years are found with cameo frosting far more often than for previous dates. It was a dual-edged sword, however, as the chromium presented its own problems. Dies that were beginning to reveal wear and other flaws required chemical stripping of the plating before repairs and repolishing could be performed. They were then re-plated with chromium and returned to the press.

Another little nugget of useful information concerns the five-centimo coinage for Costa Rica performed at San Francisco in 1967. Struck on stainless steel planchets, these actually led to the dies shattering and sending chunks of steel hurtling toward the press operators. This required the placement of bullet-proof glass shields over the coining chamber, a practice which in later years became standard for all US Mint presses. It seems, too, that the Costa Rican steel coins became magnetized as they moved through the coining process, with the result that they stuck to various points of the press, jamming it.

Active and former US Mint employees have many stories to tell. Unlike Ed, however, few of these individuals have an interest in numismatics, and only rarely are these stories committed to print. In 1992 Thomas H. Miller gave a presentation before the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society (PCNS) in San Francisco that included a number of remarkable revelations. I was there for that program and took copious notes that led to my writing a feature article *Coin World* published in its November 23, 1992 issue. At the time of this article, Miller was retiring with the title of Special Assistant to San Francisco Mint Superintendent Carol Mayer Marshall. Before the SFM regained its rightful title, he had been Officer in Charge of the SFAO.

Among the juicy bits that Miller revealed to me and my fellow members of the PCNS was that the several “No S” proof coins known to collectors today were just the tip of the iceberg. This same error had occurred on a number of occasions, but in most instances the coins were detected and destroyed before any were sent to proof set buyers. Both quarters and halves had been coined at San Francisco as “No S” proofs, the last incidence known to him having occurred with the half dollar during the early 1980s.

Miller also described the apprehension of an employee who was stealing 1991-S Mount Rushmore halves and 1992-S clad Kennedy halves, both of which had turned up in circulation earlier that year. A sting was set up, and a longtime Mint guard was caught in the act. The coins evidently were stolen to fuel his gambling trips to Reno, where most of the pieces surfaced.

Questions about the San Francisco Mint’s plans to install its own die-making shop were on the minds of listeners, and Miller confirmed that this step would indeed be taken. The die shop was going to be installed within the basement of the Old San Francisco Mint Museum once that structure had been declared safe following the 1989 earthquake. Of course, we now know that this building was found unfit for both the die shop and the existing museum. The latter was closed to the public in 1994, and its exhibits were removed. The die shop was instead built at the Denver Mint.

David W. Lange's column, “USA Coin Album,” appears monthly in the Numismatist, the official publication of the [American Numismatic Association](#).

[Articles List](#)

NGC is the Official Grading Service of



NGC is an Approved Grading Company of



[View All](#) >



[Careers](#) [Legal](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Security Center](#) [Sitemap](#) [Terms](#) [Affiliates](#) [Contact](#)

NumisMedia Market Report: Dollar Hoards Spawn Interest and Premiums

Posted on 10/16/2012

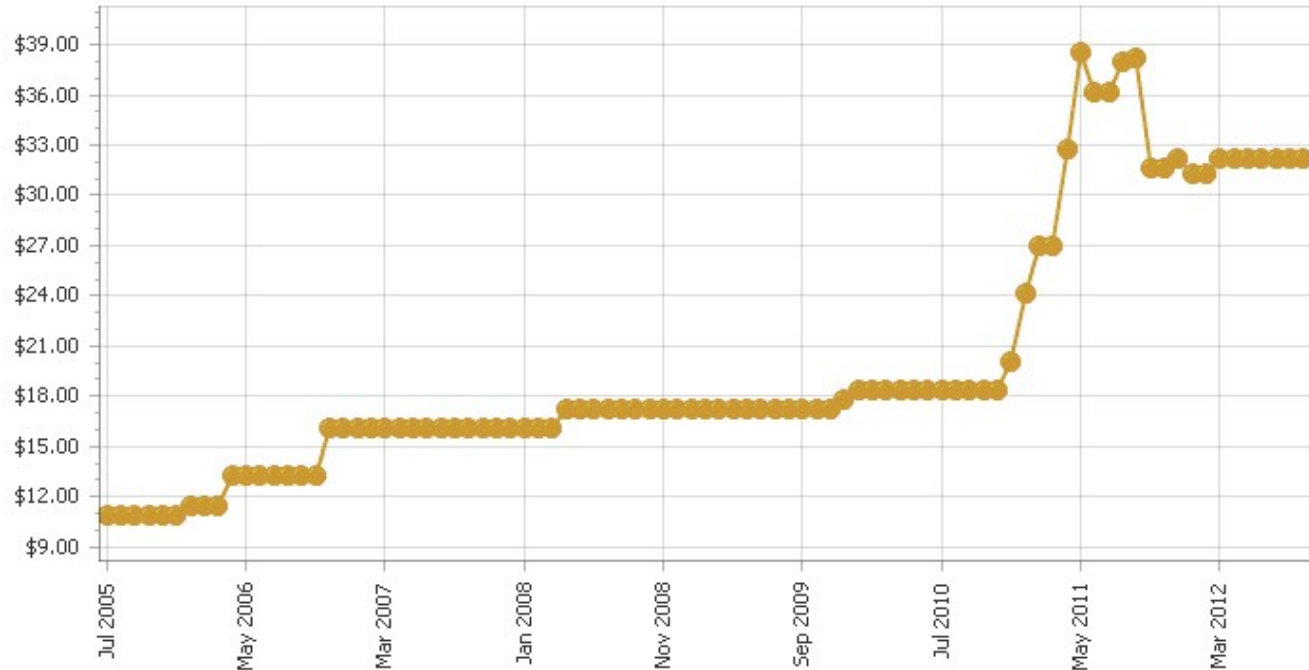
Silver dollars have long been a mainstay in the coin business and are likely the most collected US coin. Over the last 50 years, many hoards have hit the market, fueling interest and attracting masses of new collectors.

The GSA, LaVere Redfield, and Continental Bank hoards all have played a major role in developing interest in Silver Dollars. There are tens of thousands of collectors vying for the best quality they can afford.

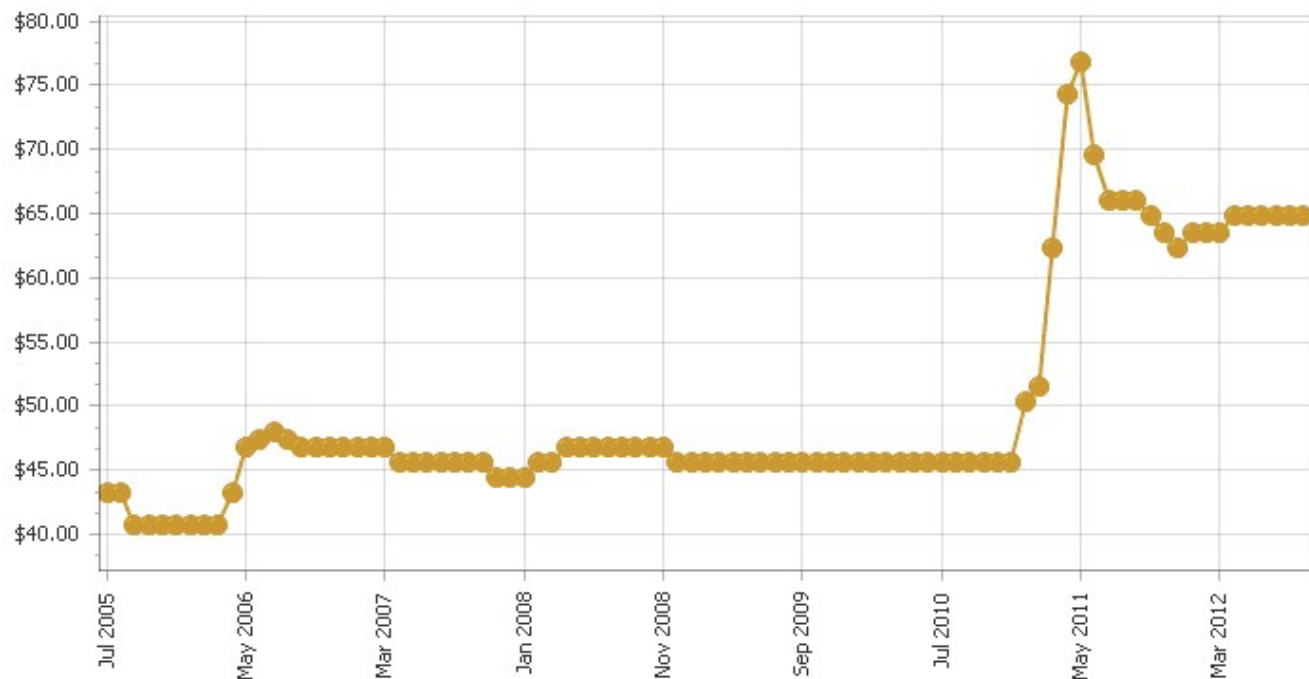
Not long ago circulated Silver Dollars were worth \$10.93 in Very Good condition. At the same time, the MS 63 was priced at \$43.20 (for this comparison we are using the Morgan Dollar). These were the Fair Market Values reported in July 2005. Today, VG Silver Dollars have an FMV of \$32.78 and MS 63s are \$65. The ratio was nearly four times for the MS 63 over the circulated dollar back in 2005; today it is less than two times. What happened to the premiums these past seven years? With the run up in metals, in this case Silver, the demand for so-called junk dollars has increased immensely. In addition, they still carry a good premium over the melt value of \$26.80.

The following graphs show the progress of the Very Good Silver Dollar over the last seven years as compared to the common date MS 63 Morgan.

Common Date Morgan Dollar – VG



Common Date Morgan Dollar – MS 63



Of course, circulated coins comprise the majority of these sales. However, looking through retail ads, auctions and dealer buy/sell lists, certified Mint State coins are as popular as ever. The graphs above show that the VG and the MS 63 Dollars have followed the same pattern throughout. Yet, the percentage of increase for the MS 63 is quite a bit less than the VG. If you had purchased \$10,000 worth of VG Dollars back in July 2005, you would have received 915 circulated dollars. Today they would be worth \$29,993. If you had used the same \$10,000 to purchase MS 63 Morgan Dollars you would have received 232 certified coins. Today they would be worth \$15,080; a nice \$5,000 profit but not nearly as much as the circulated dollars profited. The question this presents is whether the MS 63 will once again stretch out to the premium it held in 2005.

Looking at the MS 64 chart for the Morgan Dollar, it has responded pretty much the same as the MS 63. The high points were in May 2011; and the overall increase was \$28.60 from \$56.40 to the current FMV of \$85. The MS 65 did not fare as well during the same time frame. In July 2005 the FMV was \$156.25 and today it is \$148. It had various upward swings, one in July 2006 up to \$235, and one in May 2011 up to \$262.50, yet has fallen nearly every month since.

Future Silver prices will certainly hold the key to what circulated Silver Dollars will do over the next ten years. Collectors of a limited number of Mint State Silver Dollars are hopeful that they will once again garner the premiums they once enjoyed over the vast millions of circulated Silver Dollars. There were over 600 million Morgan Silver Dollars originally minted. With many of them melted and circulated over the last hundred years, it makes sense that collectors are attracted to MS 63 and higher graded Silver Dollars.

This article is a guest article written by:



The thoughts and opinions in the piece are those of their author and are not necessarily the thoughts of the Certified Collectibles Group.

[Articles List](#)

NGC is the Official Grading Service of



NGC is an Approved Grading Company of



[View All >](#)



From the NGC Archives: 1864 Two-Cent Piece with Small Motto

Posted on 10/16/2012

Americans were so desperate for hard money during the Civil War that even the lowly copper-nickel cents were hoarded.

Congress decided to replace them with lightweight cents of bronze in 1864, adding a similar two-cent piece at the same time to speed this transition to bronze.



The mintage of this first variety of two-cent piece, with its small letters in the motto IN GOD WE TRUST, is unrecorded. Walter Breen estimated that a few thousand business strikes were coined, in addition to just a handful of proofs. This variety has been rare from the outset, and generations of collectors have sought high grade examples. Featuring a sharp strike and lustrous surfaces, this charming coin is richly toned to pleasing chocolate brown, with flashes of mint red and iridescent colors around its borders.

Are you interested in learning more about these coins? Click [here](#) to visit the NGC Coin Explorer and read on.

[Articles List](#)



[View All >](#)



[Careers](#) [Legal](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Security Center](#) [Sitemap](#) [Terms](#) [Affiliates](#) [Contact](#)

© 2018 Numismatic Guaranty Corporation

United States

2012 First Spouse Series One-Half Ounce Gold Proof Coin – Alice Paul and the Suffrage Movement

Posted on 10/16/2012

The US Mint releases the first 2012 First Spouse Gold Coin series.

[Washington, DC] – In 2007, the United States Mint began honoring our Nation's first spouses on gold coins and bronze medals. This tradition continues with the 2012 First Spouse Gold Coin Series. The first coin released in 2012 honors Alice Paul and the Suffrage Movement.* It features Alice Paul with the inscription SUFFRAGIST on the obverse and pays homage to the advocacy for women's voting rights on the reverse. Offered in one-half ounce 24-karat gold proof and uncirculated qualities, this coin is available today. [Order now!](#)



*For President Arthur, who served without a spouse, Pub. L. 109-145 provides for a design incorporating the name and likeness of Alice Paul, leading suffrage movement strategist, and a reverse design representative of the suffrage

movement.

The thoughts and opinions in the piece are those of their author and are not necessarily the thoughts of the Certified Collectibles Group.

Articles List

NGC is the Official Grading Service of



View All >



Careers Legal Privacy Policy Security Center Sitemap Terms Affiliates Contact

© 2018 Numismatic Guaranty Corporation

United States

Heritage Auctions: 1833 \$5 Large Date Coin, PR 61 NGC

Posted on 10/16/2012

Struck during the opening year of the second mint building, this 1833 proof half eagle has been listed as the 44th greatest US coin.

[Dallas, TX] –

The 1833 proof half eagle holds the 44th spot in the third edition of Jeff Garrett and Ron Guth's *100 Greatest U.S. Coins*. It was struck during the opening year of the second Mint building in 1833, and is likely one of the first gold coins produced at the new facility.



The census of 1833 proof half eagles is hardly complicated, as only three or four are known, one in the Smithsonian Institution, and another in a tightly held private collection. Nothing is known of the third piece in the roster; it is an example graded PR 63 by NGC, but its whereabouts are unknown to the collecting public. In our [Dallas Signature Auction](#), we are offering [the only example that will likely be available to collectors](#) at any time in the foreseeable future. At Proof-61, it is also a lower grade than the others, meaning it is more affordable, relatively speaking.

The three traced proofs are all from the BD-1 or Large Date die pair, with no proofs known from the Small Date obverse die. There are also a couple of other pieces that have been called proof in the past, but are now considered prooflike business strikes. Dannreuther mentions the Smithsonian piece in his reference, but fails to mention either of the other two specimens.

This early die state proof shows no signs of clash marks or cracks, with slight evidence of lapping, as certain details are diminished. The reverse die was used with two 1832-dated obverse dies, and with two 1833-dated obverse dies. Examination of the large plates in John Dannreuther's *Early U.S. Gold Coin Varieties, A Study of Die States, 1795-1834*, clearly shows the progression of die

lapping, especially at the eagle's talon that hangs down from the upper leaf pair.

The deeply mirrored fields of this green-gold proof surround satin devices, imparting a trace of cameo contrast. Proof finish appears in the recesses of the design, such as the letters of LIBERTY and the spaces between shield stripes. The fields are lightly hairlined with other minor surface marks expected for the grade. A hint of striking softness is noted at the usual spots, especially among the wing feathers just left of the shield. When it was offered 14 years ago, this piece was conservatively graded PR 58 NGC, and that old grading event still appears in the *NGC Census Report*.

The thoughts and opinions in the piece are those of their author and are not necessarily the thoughts of the Certified Collectibles Group.

[Articles List](#)

NGC is the Official Grading Service of



NGC is an Approved Grading Company of



[View All](#) >



[Careers](#) [Legal](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Security Center](#) [Sitemap](#) [Terms](#) [Affiliates](#) [Contact](#)

© 2018 Numismatic Guaranty Corporation

United States

Stack's Bowers Galleries to Present the Official Auction of the 2013 New Orleans ANA National Money Show

Posted on 10/16/2012

Live auctions for the 2013 ANA National Money Show will be conducted May 9–11.

[Irvine, Calif.] – Stack's Bowers Galleries, preeminent auctioneer of rare coins and paper money, has been selected by the American Numismatic Association (ANA) as the Official Auctioneer of the 2013 ANA National Money Show. Held May 9–11, 2013, the auction will present an extensive selection of US coins, medals, and more.

"We are thrilled to continue our relationship with the ANA and are privileged to be entrusted with the rights to host the 2013 ANA National Money Show auction," said Stack's Bowers Galleries president, Chris Napolitano. "Stack's Bowers Galleries will present the Official 2013 ANA World's Fair of Money auction in August, as well, so we are extremely excited to be the only official auctioneer for the ANA in 2013, and we are dedicated to presenting two very strong auction events that collectors can look forward to."

As host of the August 2012 ANA World's Fair of Money Auction, Stack's Bowers Galleries realized over \$42 million in US and world coins and paper money.

"We are excited to have Stack's Bowers Galleries as our Official ANA Auctioneer in presenting this fantastic show," said ANA executive director, Jeff Shevlin. "Stack's Bowers is a forward-thinking company that values the ANA, and knows that helping to grow and strengthen the association will bolster the long-term growth of the hobby and industry."

Live auctions for the 2013 ANA National Money Show will be conducted May 9–11, 2013, at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, located at 900 Convention Center Boulevard, New Orleans, La. 70130.

Stack’s Bowers Galleries is currently accepting consignments for the Official Auctions of the 2013 New Orleans ANA National Money Show, and the 2013 Chicago ANA World’s Fair of Money. For more information regarding these auctions, please visit www.StacksBowers.com. Contact a consignment director today at 800.458.4646 (West Coast) or 800.566.2580 (East Coast) to consign your coins, banknotes, exnumia, or entire collection.

The thoughts and opinions in the piece are those of their author and are not necessarily the thoughts of the Certified Collectibles Group.

[Articles List](#)

NGC is the Official Grading Service of



[View All >](#)



[Careers](#) [Legal](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Security Center](#) [Sitemap](#) [Terms](#) [Affiliates](#) [Contact](#)

© 2018 Numismatic Guaranty Corporation

United States